

**From:** Alfred Lehman  
**To:** Ms. Renata Hesse  
**Date:** 1/22/02 9:33pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Alfred Lehman  
1364 Richland Blvd.  
Bay Shore, NY 11706-5444

January 23, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse  
U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Ms. Hesse:

Joining many other Americans, I would like to express my support for the revised proposed Final Judgment in the U.S. v. Microsoft case. This lengthy litigation has cost my fellow taxpayers and me more than \$35 million. I have studied the terms of this ruling, and I strongly feel that this final approval is clearly in the public interest.

Our greatest boon in this settlement: the Department of Justice and the settling states will AVOID ADDITIONAL COSTS and now be able to focus their time and resources on matters of greater importance - the war against terrorism, and homeland security. As noted by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, who pushed for a settlement after the September 11 tragedy, "it's vital for the country to move on from this lawsuit."

I can readily see that the terms of the settlement offer a fair resolution for all sides - the DOJ, the states, Microsoft, competitors, consumers and taxpayers. Microsoft need not be broken up and can continue to innovate and provide new software and products. Software developers and Internet Service Providers, including competitors, will now have access to Microsoft's programming language and thus be able to make Microsoft programs compatible with their own. It's good to know that competitors also gain as computer manufacturers are free to uninstall any Microsoft application or operating system and install other programs. And...Microsoft cannot retaliate against computer manufactures, ISPs, or other software makers for using products developed by Microsoft competitors. ALSO: a Technical Committee will work out of Microsoft's headquarters for five years, at the company's expense, to monitor Microsoft's compliance with the settlement. That, too, is acceptable.

This settlement is fair to the computer users of America. Consumers will be able to select from a variety of pre-installed software on their computers, even find it easier to substitute competitor products after purchase.

This case was supposedly brought on behalf of American consumers, and we certainly "paid our way" -- the cost of litigation -- through our taxes. Even our investment portfolios have taken a hit during this battle, and now more than ever, the country needs the economic stability this settlement can provide. This settlement is in the public interest, and I urge the DOJ to submit the revised proposed Final Judgment to the U.S. District Court without change!

Sincerely,  
Alfred C. Lehman, MS, MSC

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